

TODAY

► **WHY**  
Denise has a  
hi-tech  
approach to  
motherhood



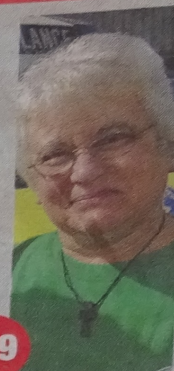
P23

► **HOW**  
clearing  
system will  
help our  
students



P10

► **WHO**  
is helping to  
provide an  
ambulance  
for Africa?



P19

Weather: PAGE 6

National: PAGE 6

Letters: PAGE 12

Puzzles: PAGE 29

TV: PAGES 26-27

**TOMORROW: What takes three billion hours a week? Essex has the answer**

## Drink-drive charge after car smash

A MAN has been charged with drink-driving after a crash in which another vehicle spun off the road.

The 24-year-old was driving a Renault Clio in Canvey Road, Canvey, at about 8.20pm on Saturday, when it was involved in a collision with a Land Rover Discovery.

The crash forced the Land Rover into trees, while the Clio was flipped on to its roof.

The drivers and two passengers freed themselves from the wreckage. Three people suffered minor injuries.

The 24-year-old, from Canvey, is due to appear before Southend magistrates on August 24.

Council acts as go-between over possible land deal

# Dale Farm travellers 'may head to Suffolk'

TRAVELLERS from Dale Farm are in talks with gypsies in Suffolk about buying their land.

Basildon Council acted as middleman to forward details of the Forge Caravan site, in the hamlet of Coombs, near Stowmarket, to families facing eviction.

Council staff met the families at Dale Farm on Thursday to pass on details of the Suffolk site.

Basildon Council leader Tony Ball said: "The council has been contacted by a gentleman, based in Suffolk, with regards to a possible alternative site.

"As agreed with the gentleman,

By JON AUSTIN

jon.austin@nqe.com

these details have been passed to the relevant traveller representatives.

"However, the council has had no further involvement in checking the validity of this alternative, or in negotiating any possible terms."

A Mid Suffolk Council spokesman said it knew nothing about a possible purchase until it received enquires from the Echo.

The council confirmed the site was licensed for 19 caravan pitches,

but said it had been under-occupied for several years.

The council was in the process of using compulsory purchase orders to buy it from the Gumble family to provide housing for other local travellers.

Levi Gumble told the Echo there was room for up to 50 caravans over the six-acre site, 38 of which would have permission.

He said: "The people at Dale Farm know about the compulsory purchase and are not bothered.

"We could well sell to the people at Dale Farm. We can't say any more until later in the week."

## £150m drug racket: 3 jailed

THE discovery of a £1.5-million haul of skunk cannabis hidden among boxes of flowers in Purfleet was key to the conviction of three international drug dealers.

The men were part of an Anglo-Dutch organised crime group that imported an estimated £150million of drugs into West Yorkshire and the West Midlands during 2008 and 2009.

In September 2009, Customs seized a shipment of flowers containing cannabis at Purfleet docks.

It was among a series of successful raids against the group, in the UK and on the Continent.

Johannes Elmendorp, 51, of Vandans, Austria, who organised the UK...

**TAN-TASTIC AS SPRAY**